IN THE CLAIMS

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (New) A transdermal therapeutic system for administering a calcium antagonist of the dihydropyridine type which comprises:

a) a backing layer, which defines the upper surface of the device,

b) a drug reservoir containing a solution comprising:

- a calcium antagonist of the dihydropyridine type,
- an alcohol selected from the group consisting of ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, and n-decyl alcohol,
- a pyrrolidone derivative, and
- a saturated or unsaturated fatty acid ester of a carboxylic acid containing 8 – 16 carbon atoms and polyhydroxy alcohol,

c) a membrane to control the release of the active ingredient, and

d) a pressure sensitive adhesive layer for attaching the system to the skin and, if necessary, a release liner on the outer face of the adhesive layer

wherein the said backing layer and said membrane are connected together to form the drug reservoir.

14. (New) A transdermal therapeutic system as claimed in claim 13 wherein the solution in the drug reservoir comprises a calcium antagonist of the dihydropyridine type, ethanol, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone and sorbitan palmitate.

15. (New) A transdermal therapeutic system as claimed in claim 14 wherein the solution comprises a calcium antagonist of the dihydropyridine type 3 – 5%, ethanol 30 –

40%, sorbitan palmitate 3 – 5% and N-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone 50 – 60% by weight of the total solution.

16. (New) A transdermal therapeutic system as claimed in claim 13 which is the form of skin patch.

17. (New) A transdermal therapeutic system as claimed in claim 13 in which the calcium antagonist of the dihydropyridine type is selected from the group consisting of amlodipine, felodipine, isradipine, lacidipine, nicardipine, nifedipine, nilvadipine, nimodipine, nisoldipine, and nitrendipine.

18. (New ) A transdermal therapeutic system as claimed in claim 17 in which the calcium antagonist of the dihydropyridine type is lacidipine.

19. (New) A transdermal therapeutic system as claimed in claim 17 in which the calcium antagonist of the dihydropyridine type is nifedipine.

20. (New) A method for administering a calcium antagonist of the dihydropyridine type through a pre-determined area of intact skin and at an administration rate which will reach and maintain an effective therapeutic dose of a calcium antagonist of the dihydropyridine type for the control of hypertension and cardiovascular diseases selected from the group consisting of atherosclerosis, peripheral vascular disease, ischaemic heart disease and congestive heart failure which comprises applying to the skin a transdermal therapeutic system as claimed in claim 13.

21. (New) A solution which is suitable for use in a drug reservoir for a transdermal therapeutic system as claimed in claim 13 which comprises:

- a calcium antagonist of the dihydropyridine type,

- an alcohol selected from the group consisting of ethanol, propanol, isopropanol and n-decyl alcohol,
- a pyrrolidone derivative, and
- a saturated or unsaturated fatty acid ester of a carboxylic acid containing 8 – 16 carbon atoms and a polyhydroxy alcohol.

22. A solution as claimed in claim 21 which comprises a calcium antagonist of the dihydropyridine type, ethanol, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone and sorbitan palmitate.

23. (New) A method of treating hypertension which comprises administering an effective amount of calcium antagonist of the dihydropyridine type in a transdermal therapeutic system as claimed in claim 13.